

ZACHARY TAYLOR

1849 - 1850



Zachary Taylor was born at Montebello, Virginia, in 1784. He fought in the War of 1812, the Black Hawk War, and the Seminole War, while also holding desk jobs in Washington. He was made a brigadier general, and during the war with Mexico, he defeated Santa Ana at Buena Vista in 1847.

Margaret Smith Taylor was born in Maryland in 1788. While visiting a sister in Kentucky, she met Lieutenant Taylor. They were married in 1810, and she cheerfully followed her husband from one garrison to another in his military career. The Taylors had six children, two of whom died in childhood.



Because of residing in so many locations during his 40 years as a military man, **President Zachary Taylor** had never cast a vote for president when he was elected to that office. As president, he took a firm stand against appeasing the South in the debate over the status of slavery in new areas such as New Mexico and California, but he died in 1850 before the signing of the Compromise. He was known as “Old Rough and Ready,” because of his bluff and simple manner.

As First Lady, Peggy Taylor met special groups at her husband's side; she took no part in formal social functions. Her youngest daughter, Mary Elizabeth Bliss, took on the duties of official White House hostess. Margaret Taylor died in 1852.

Arizona Timeline

1850 – After President Taylor's death - Compromise of 1850 allows for the admittance into the Union of territories acquired from Mexico as non-slave states. (This included present day New Mexico or Arizona).